

# WORKFORCE IN THE NEWS



06/16/04

## **Governor's Press Release**

[Legislative Update 06/14/2004](#)

Governor Schwarzenegger has signed the following bill:

## **Budget**

[Deadline past-but without a state budget, Governor, most lawmakers hopeful of OK by July 1](#)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he is extremely optimistic the state will get a budget before the start of the fiscal year despite lawmakers' failure to pass a spending plan by Tuesday's constitutional deadline.

**San Francisco Chronicle/State News**

[Dan Walters: Deadline missed, but budget talks exude positive vibes](#)

Tuesday was the state constitution's deadline for the Legislature to approve a new budget - one that, as usual, was honored in the breach.

**Sacramento Bee/Politics**

[Budget process inching along](#)

The state constitution demands that lawmakers send a budget to the governor by midnight today, but they aren't going to do it.

**Sacramento Bee/Politics**

[First budget deadline today](#)

SACRAMENTO -- With Democrats fighting cuts to higher education, the legislative committee reviewing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget ground to a halt Monday -- one day before today's constitutional deadline for lawmakers to pass next year's spending plan.

**Los Angeles Daily News/State News**

## **Business, Job Training News & Job Creation**

[U.S. hiring plans near boom levels](#)

NEW YORK - U.S. companies are gearing up to create jobs at rates not seen since the height of the 1990s boom, a survey released Tuesday showed, adding to evidence that job growth will keep the U.S. economic recovery rolling.

**MSNBC.com/National Business News**

[State, area see job growth](#)

California strung together its third consecutive month of job growth in May - a feat not seen in two years - as hiring accelerated and nearly caught up with the nation's recent employment surge.

**Sacramento Bee/Business News**

[Area grocers, union stock up for a fight](#)

Barely three months after a devastating strike ended in Southern California, the supermarket industry's labor wars are coming to Sacramento. They could produce one of the most contentious labor negotiations the region has seen.

**Sacramento Bee/Business News**

### [Daniel Weintraub: Wage hike forces trade-offs among poor workers](#)

As the California Legislature considers a proposal to raise the state minimum wage, supporters have tried to paint the issue as a contest between workers and employers. But lawmakers weighing the measure ought to recognize that the more important trade-off involved is between one set of workers, or those hoping to work, and another

#### **Sacramento Bee/Politics**

### [Job market grows slightly](#)

California experienced moderate job growth for the third-straight month but not enough to keep pace with the improving job picture at the national level, according to state job numbers released Monday.

#### **Oakland Tribune/Business News**

### [Prison guards rally for acceptable deal](#)

With the Schwarzenegger administration pressuring them to pass on an upcoming pay raise to help solve the state's budget crisis, about 3,000 state correctional officers and their families rallied in protest at Raley Field in West Sacramento on Sunday.

#### **Sacramento Bee/Politics**

### **Economy**

### [Consumer prices climbed in May](#)

WASHINGTON - Consumer prices — stoked by more expensive energy and food products — registered their largest increase in more than three years last month, a strong sign that inflation is springing back to life.

#### **MSNBC.com/Stocks & Economy**

### [Interest rate hikes likely to be gradual, Greenspan says](#)

WASHINGTON - Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, heading for virtually certain Senate approval for a fifth term at the helm of the U.S. central bank, repeated on Tuesday that interest-rate rises were likely to be gradual.

#### **MSNBC.com/Stocks & Economy**

### **Education**

### [Business, labor back state colleges](#)

They are traditionally on opposite sides of the table, but several high-profile business, labor and minority rights leaders have formed a coalition to support the state's public colleges and universities.

#### **San Francisco Chronicle/State News**

### [Lawmaker tries to alter school power](#)

As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's political stock continued to skyrocket, Assembly Democrats quietly approved two bills in May that could undercut his authority on schools.

#### **Sacramento Bee/Politics**

### [School buyout plan costly](#)

A "golden handshake" offered to San Juan Unified School District employees to save \$2.7 million next year is looking tarnished

#### **Sacramento Bee/Local News**

[Assembly Democrats want more education spending - Lawmakers trying to keep doors open for eligible freshmen](#)

Sacramento -- Democratic lawmakers, seeking to soften the blow of funding cuts negotiated between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and university leaders, worked Monday to craft an alternative plan that would assure eligible freshmen are not turned away from campuses this fall.

**San Francisco Chronicle/State News**

[Bill to bail out Vallejo schools stalls amid debate on reforms -Republicans won't OK \\$60 million rescue until plan devised to avoid similar situations](#)

An emergency loan needed to keep Vallejo schools solvent has stalled in the state Senate as lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration hash out a broad reform of the way the state handles school districts that blow their budgets.

**San Francisco Chronicle/State News**

[Measure would require education, counseling for most state inmates](#)

Legislators hope to reinvigorate the state prisons' rehabilitation efforts with a ballot measure that would mandate education and counseling for most inmates.

**Contra Costa Times/State News**

**Healthcare**

[82 million uninsured in past two years](#)

WASHINGTON - Nearly 82 million people — one third of the U.S. population younger than 65 — lacked health insurance at some point over the past two years and most of those were uninsured for more than nine months, says a study by the private group Families USA.

**MSNBC.com/Stocks & Economy**

[CalPERS' HMO rates set to climb by 11.4%](#)

After dropping 38 hospitals from its health plan to save money, the California Public Employees' Retirement System will pay average HMO premium increases of 11.4 percent next year under a plan unveiled Tuesday.

**Sacramento Bee/Business News**

[Top-rated hospitals got boot](#)

Confidential records used by CalPERS in its controversial decision last month to drop 38 hospitals from its health plan show that many of the facilities targeted for high cost were also rated among the highest for quality.

**Sacramento Bee/Health News**

[Health insurers hit big obstacle](#)

The California Public Employees' Retirement System agreed Monday to vote its proxy against Anthem Inc.'s planned \$16 billion acquisition of WellPoint Health Networks Inc. as pension fund trustees lambasted the deal's hefty executive severance package.

**Sacramento Bee/Business News**

[Dan Walters: Despite Schwarzenegger's workers' comp victory, battle resumes](#)

Cajoling and bulldozing the Legislature into overhauling the state's system of compensating workers for job-related illnesses and injuries stands as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's most impressive feat to date, a down payment on his pledge to make California friendlier to business investment.

**Sacramento Bee/Politics**

## **Other News**

### **Public safety pension bill in limbo**

Assembly Democrats on Monday derailed for now an attempt to overturn a 2002 law that granted more lucrative public safety pensions to 3,200 state workers, from California Highway Patrol dispatchers to conservationists.

### **Sacramento Bee/Politics**

#### **Report adds 10 years to Social Security life**

WASHINGTON - Adding political ammunition to both parties in an election-year debate, the Congressional Budget Office said Monday that the Social Security system is in better shape than its worried trustees and conservative critics have described.

### **Sacramento Bee/Politics**

#### **Feds object to state's disclosure rule**

SACRAMENTO -- The federal government has withdrawn its representatives from eight California commissions to protest the state's demand that federal employees make the same economic disclosures as state officials serving on the same boards.

### **Los Angeles Daily News/State News**